



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chippewa National Forest  
Blackduck Ranger District

417 Forestry Drive  
Blackduck, MN 56630-4431  
218-835-4291

**File Code:** 1950/2300

**Date:** March 11, 2011

Greetings,

I am proposing to provide additional amenities at Rabideau CCC Camp and immediate vicinity. These amenities will continue to preserve the site, provide for visitor needs, and provide education opportunities. I am writing to notify you of these proposals and of the subsequent analysis that will be done over the next few months. I would like to hear your comments about the proposal. Your comments will provide me with the information necessary to make an informed decision about the proposal.

The Project Area is located 6 miles south of Blackduck along County Road 39 and County Road 55. The legal description is Township 148 North, Range 31 West, Sections 12 and 13; and Township 148 North, Range 30 West, Section 18. Rabideau CCC Camp is a National Historic Landmark.

The proposal includes providing additional parking and trails; a work site; an additional toilet facility; water; an additional picnic shelter; and a gated access road from County Road 55. I am also proposing to allow group(s), as of now unidentified, to use Rabideau CCC Camp and its' vicinity for purposes that express the original intent and historic use of Rabideau CCC Camp; that preserves its unique historic features; and that links natural resources and cultural values with the past, present, and future.

You are receiving this letter for one or more of three reasons: You may have an interest in Rabideau CCC Camp National Historic Landmark; you live near the Camp and may be interested in the proposed activities, and/or you may have information about the historic resources at the camp and the effects of the proposal.

## **PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSAL**

Rabideau CCC Camp was created to provide employment and educational opportunities for young men during the Great Depression. Today, the Rabideau CCC Camp vision continues to express the original intent and historic use of the camp: preserving its unique historic features and linking natural resources and cultural values with the past, present, and future. This vision is accomplished by maintaining the camp as a National Historic Landmark and encouraging public access and use of the area for education and recreational purposes. This is accomplished in part by the visitor service amenities and by educational programming.

Visitor amenities and educational programming contribute to the vision of Rabideau CCC Camp. The educational programs and visitor service amenities need to be provided for without interrupting the historic integrity and interpretation of the site. The purpose of the proposed projects is to provide quality visitor and/or program participant experiences through accessible and appropriate amenities and/or facilities. Additionally the purpose is to define the occupancy limits for participants in educational



programs that are currently using and may use the camp in the future to learn about land management, resource conservation, historic restoration, cultural heritage, and the natural world.

The proposed action includes the following specific amenities (please see attached maps) and use parameters:

**Parking:** Create up to four additional parking areas to accommodate visitors and educational activities.

- The first two would be located in historic parking areas from the 1930's and 40's. These lots may be large enough to accommodate 5 to 10 cars and larger vehicles. These lots would not be paved.
- The second parking area would be a one to two car parking area to accommodate people accessing Carl's Lake. This lot would not be paved and access a carry-in trail to the lake.
- The third parking area, accessed via County Road 55, would accommodate 15 to 20 cars and larger vehicles in an open field approximately 0.3 miles from the Rabideau CCC Camp buildings. It would be outside of the National Historic Landmark boundary. This lot would not be paved.

**Trails:** Create access trails for visitors:

- Create a non-motorized trail from the proposed parking area to Carl's Lake.
- Create a trail from the open field approximately 0.3 miles from the Rabideau CCC Camp building to the historic site.

**Other amenities:** In the open field approximately 0.3 miles from the Rabideau CCC Camp buildings and outside of the National Historic Landmark boundary:

- Create a work area that allows for students' hands-on technical experience
- A powerline will be added from County Road 55 to the work area
- Build a picnic shelter
- Install a single vault toilet facility
- Drill a non-potable water well
- Add an additional high tunnel green house in the garden area

**Road Access:**

- Construct a gated access road from County Road 55 into the open field approximately 0.3 miles from the Rabideau CCC Camp buildings and outside the National Historic landmark boundary.

**Occupancy of Rabideau facilities by a Forest Service Permittee:** A special use permit, as granted by the Blackduck District Ranger, is the authorization for an individual or group to use a National Forest facility. A special use permit for the use of Rabideau CCC Camp facilities and area would require the permittee to meet the vision of Rabideau CCC Camp for any programming or use of the site. The permittee would be expected to provide for the camp's long term maintenance. This vision is to express the original intent and historic use of Rabideau CCC Camp by preserving its unique historic features and linking natural resources and cultural values with the past, present, and future. We will issue a special use permit. This permit will address daily and residential occupancy. At this point it is undetermined the specifics of daily and/or residential occupancy through the permit.

- Daily occupancy/use may range from one day to year-round use.
- Residential use would be limited to periods ranging from one night to 14 nights.

Rabideau CCC Camp is a National Historic Landmark. As such, all projects would require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service to assure that the qualities of the Historic District are not compromised.

This proposed project is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of our public involvement activities, we plan to make contact with the appropriate Local Indian Council(s). If you know of others who are entitled to be consulting parties as described in 36 CFR 800.2, have recommendations for other contacts we should make, or have questions regarding the project at this time, please contact Ann Long Voelkner.

#### WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU:

To be most useful, your comments should be received prior to April 12, 2011. To focus your comments, please consider the following questions:

- Are there alternative ways to meet the purpose and need for the project?
- Is there information about the project area which you believe is important?
- For you or the group you represent, what are the potential effects of this proposal?

If you do not reply to this letter or express an interest in this project, chances are that you will not receive any further letters or documents about it from us.

Please include the following information with your comments:

- 1) Name, address, telephone number, organization represented, and title (if applicable)
- 2) Title of the document on which the comment is being submitted (Rabideau CCC Camp Proposal)
- 3) Specific facts and supporting reasons regarding your comments

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Ann Long Voelkner at (218) 335-8616. Send comments in reply to this scoping letter to one or more of the following:

District Ranger  
USDA Forest Service  
417 Forestry Drive  
Blackduck, MN 56630

Telephone - (218) 835-4291  
Fax - (218) 835-3132

Electronically to both: [gmorris@fs.fed.us](mailto:gmorris@fs.fed.us) and [alongvoelkner@fs.fed.us](mailto:alongvoelkner@fs.fed.us)

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MORRIS  
Blackduck District Ranger

Enclosures (2)